

Testimony in support of HB 5566, An Act Concerning Child Safety by Restricting the Placement of Leghold Traps

Dear Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, and Honorable Members of the Children Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 5566, which would restrict the placement of leghold traps. While I have read stories in local news of the unintended and sometimes fatal consequences of using these traps, I have experienced it first hand as my family's beloved pet dog went missing in the woods one day when I was a child.

Several days later my dog came limping down the driveway with his back left leg torn, shattered, and dangling. We rushed him to the emergency animal hospital where it was confirmed by a veterinarian that his injuries were caused by a hunter's leghold trap in the woods. The veterinarian informed us it was miraculous that he did not bleed to death. He faced the choice of being put to sleep or having his leg amputated. Lucky for my dog and our family that his amputation surgery was a success, and he lived a long life but others are not so fortunate. This experience was traumatic for my dog and for me as a child. If I had found my dog stuck in the trap, I would undoubtedly have attempted to break him free while potentially causing serious injury to myself. I ask that you put the safety of Connecticut's children and animals first by supporting HB 5566.

Thank you.

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